

above the snow-line it is the height of folly. This seems to us the main lesson to be learnt from the Alpine accidents of 1888, and it is all the more important to insist on it, because at the present time there seems to be a distinct tendency to advance from guideless mountaineering to companionless mountaineering. No doubt the mountains are better known than formerly, but mountain dangers in themselves remain the same; and though experience diminishes the risk for a party going together, it does not do so in the case of solitary climbers—rather the contrary if it leads a practised mountaineer to depend solely on himself, instead of sharing the perils and fatigues of an ascent with a trusty comrade, whether he be a guide or an amateur.

## NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1888.

[The expeditions recorded in the following pages are believed to have been made for the first time by English or foreign mountaineers. In cases where foreign climbers have preceded English travellers, and in some other instances, references to the original accounts have, as far as possible, been given.]

### *Cottian District.*

ROCCIE FOURIOUN (3,113 mètres = 10,214 feet, New Italian Survey); LA GUARDIA DEL PORCO (3,090 mètres = 10,138 feet, Signor Bossoli's panorama). *August 28.*—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with Christian Almer, jun., climbed this peak in an hour by its S. ridge from the Colle del Colour del Porco. The route lay over easy broken rocks. A ruined cairn of unknown origin (probably built by a hunter) was found on a lower point rather to the N. of the summit.

To the N. of the peak is the Col Isaia, crossed by MM. P. Guillemin and A. Salvador de Quatrefages on September 23, 1877.\* The new Italian map is wrong in attributing a height of 3,070 mètres only to the nameless rocky peak between the Col Isaia and the Col de la Traversette, for it is distinctly higher than the Roccie Fourioun, and is crowned by a cairn. (Possibly the heights of the two peaks should be interchanged.) It might be allowed to retain its old name of Monte di Marte, which appears, with a height of 3,100 mètres, in Signor Bossoli's panorama from the sanctuary of San Chiaffredo.†

PASSO DELLE FORCIOLLINE (c. 3,050 mètres = 10,008 feet). *August 29.*—The same party, starting from the inn on the Piano del Re above Crissolo, crossed the col between the Viso Mozzo (3,018 mètres) and the Viso itself (ascending the Viso Mozzo *en route* in just under an hour) to the two small lakes just beyond the Lago Grande. Thence ascending by a long and lofty couloir (then nearly filled with snow), they gained the S.E. ridge of the Viso (1 hr. 20 mins. from the lakes) at a point S. of and much higher than the Passo delle Sagnette. The new pass (for which the name of P. delle Forciolline is proposed) is separated from the Sagnette by a rugged rocky peak. The descent to the great Forciolline lakes took only 15 mins., as the débris were thickly covered

\* *Annuaire du C. A. F.*, 1877, p. 586.

† *Bollettino del C. A. I.*, 1875, No. 24.

with fresh snow. Castel Delfino was gained the same evening by the usual fatiguing route.

TÊTE DES TOILLIES (3,179 mètres=10,430 feet, *État Major Français*); ROCH DELLA NIERA (3,177 mètres=10,424 feet, *New Italian Survey*). *August 30.*—The same party made the third ascent of this peak on the way over the Col Longet from Castel Delfino to Maljasset. Leaving the mule track 10 mins. beyond the boundary stone (which is far above the true col, and on the W. side of the col), they ascended over grass slopes and débris to the deep notch just S. of the peak (45 mins.). Thence in 5 mins. they skirted the base of the peak round to the S.W., and had a short and enjoyable climb of 10 mins. to the summit, gaining the final ridge between the two points. The view was very fine, as the peak is at the angle between the Varaita, Ubaye, and S. Véran valleys. A ruined cairn, a bit of a flag, and the cards of MM. P. Guillemin and A. Salvador de Quatrefages were found on the summit. The descent of the final rocks took 15 mins. Thence striking straight away to the W. the party gained the highest huts in the Ubaye valley in 1 hr. 10 mins. from the base of the peak, and Maljasset in 1 hr. 45 mins. more.

The first ascent of this peak was made early in August 1879 by Lieutenant Siccardi with a party of Italian soldiers; the second by MM. Guillemin and Salvador de Quatrefages on August 14, 1879.\*

The route up the last rocks seems in both cases to have been that described above.

Péou Roc (3,231 mètres=10,601 feet, and 3,202 mètres=10,506 feet). *August 31.*—The same party made the first ascent of both points of Péou Roc. Starting from Maljasset, they remounted the Ubaye valley to the Lac du Paroird, and quitted it in 50 mins. in order to mount by the right bank of the stream from the gorge S.W. of the peak. At first the way lay over meadows, then over very steep and treacherous slopes of shale. After crossing two streams to the right they finally gained the upper pasture basin of the gorge in 1 hr. 5 mins. from the main valley, and mounted over grass to the foot of the great combe which pierces the S.W. flank of the peak (35 mins.). Mounting by the left bank of this combe, and of a couloir higher up, over easy broken rocks, they gained the main ridge of the peak just N. of the point 3,202, which was climbed in 10 mins. (1 hr. 15 mins. from the base of the peak). The highest point was, however, at the N. end of the ridge, and was gained in 2 hrs. 20 mins. from the point 3,202, along the broken ridge and its W. flank. No great difficulties were met with, but the way was very wearisome, owing to the necessity of climbing or turning the innumerable aiguilles with which the arête is studded. The highest peak is very nearly at the junction with the main Font Sancte-Toillies ridge, and does not appear to have been previously visited. The descent was made by the W. ridge till a great break in it made it necessary to climb down the broken rocks of its S. flank, thus gaining (1½ hr. from the summit) a great slope of débris not far below the junction of the white rocks of the peak with the

\* *Annuaire du C. A. F.*, 1879, pp. 23-7.

brown rocks of the col. In 10 mins. more the base of the peak was regained, whence an easy ascent of 20 mins. over grass and débris led to the Col du Tiroure. More éboulis led down to the head of the Combe de Cristillan, Ceillac being reached in 2 hrs. 35 mins. quick walking from the col.

*Dauphiné District.*

GROS GRENIER (2,917 mètres = 9,571 feet). *September 4.*—Mr. Frederick Gardiner and the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with Christian Almer, jun., and Simon Barnéoud, having ascended this peak by the E. arête \* from Valloire, descended a few steps along the S. arête, and then went straight down easy slopes of rock and shale on the western face of the peak to the pastures. The highest chalets of La Motte were reached in 1 hr. 5 mins. from the summit, and S. Jean d'Arves gained the same afternoon by way of Montrond.

BRÈCHE DES GRANDES ROUSSES (c. 3,100 mètres = 10,171 feet). *September 6.*—The same party, starting from the Refuge de la Fare, gained the Plateau des Lacs, near the Lac de la Fare, in 40 mins., and then crossing the glacier due East, climbed over easy broken rocks, diversified by snow patches, to a point on the N. arête of the southern summit of the Grandes Rousses, a short distance above the lowest depression between the N. and S. peaks, to which they descended in a few minutes (2 hrs. 20 mins. from the lakes). After the party (save Barnéoud) had ascended the Southern peak by the N. ridge, they returned to the col and all went down the upper Glacier des Quirliés, but were forced by wide crevasses and precipitous ice slopes more and more to the left (N.), close to the rocks of a great spur of the northern peak of the Grandes Rousses, over the steep lower rocks of which they finally gained the level glacier (1 hr. 10 mins. from the pass), where the usual route of the Col des Quirliés was rejoined and followed to Clavans (2 hrs. 25 mins.).

The col was reached from the West by Abbé Bayle on August 17, 1874, † but the descent on the East had never previously been accomplished.

ROCHE MÉANE (circa 3,700 mètres = 12,140 feet). *July 25.*—Herr G. Merzbacher, with Pierre Gaspard fils, starting from the Chatelleret hut at 1.45 A.M., reached the Col de la Casse Déserte at 5.45, whence, rounding the central peak of the Grande Ruine by the usual route, they crossed a snow-ridge and traversed the great glacier (Glacier supérieur des Agneaux) flowing E. from the central peak in a north-easterly direction to the foot of the peak, reached at 6.45. After halting for breakfast till 7.45 the party climbed up the second snow couloir (counting from left to right), and, keeping to the right, gained the main ridge at a point where a white rock emerges from the yellow-red (gneiss) rocks of the arête. Thence they kept along the N.W. face of the peak by very difficult rocks, regained the main ridge, and gained the summit of the peak at 9.30. Leaving at 10.30, the base

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. p. 112.

† *Annuaire de la S. T. D.*, 1876, p. 113.

of the rocks was regained at 12.30, and La Bérarde at 6 that evening.\* The Roche Méane is the eastern spur of the Grande Ruine which towers up so magnificently above the Refuge de l'Alpe.

**SOMMET DES ROUIES FROM THE N.W.** (3,634 mètres = 11,923 feet).  
*July 31.*—MM. A. Reynier and C. Verne, with P. Gaspard père, J. B. Rodier fils, and Christophe Clot, starting from the Refuge de la Lavey at 3, followed the usual route up the valley to the moraine of the Glacier du Fond (reached at 5), then bearing east in the direction of the Col de la Lavey climbed up snow couloirs, rocks, and snow slopes, direct to a snow dome N.W. of the peak. This dome was reached at 11. In a few steps the ordinary route was regained, and followed to the summit of the peak, reached at 12.

Father Favrichon of the Oratory, with Christophe and Pierre Roderon, on July 23, gained the N.W. ridge by a route separated from that described above by a rocky ridge to the South, but was forced by bad weather to descend to La Bérarde without completing the ascent.

**ROCHER DE L'ENCULA** (3,538 mètres=11,608 feet). *September 7.*—Messrs. W. A. Greene, F. C. Mills, and F. Baker-Gabb, with P. Gaspard père, and J. B. Rodier, made the ascent of this peak by a new route over the E. face and N.E. arête. Starting from the inn at La Bérarde at 4.45 A.M., they followed the path towards the Glacier du Chardon on the left bank of the Vénéon for one hour; then, striking up to the right, climbed over grass slopes and occasional rocks for 1½ hours, whence they kept over easy rocks (bearing always to the right) to a broad snow couloir. At the head of this couloir they turned on to the N. face, intending to work across the steep snow-slopes to the summit, but owing to the bad state of the fresh snow they were obliged to take to the N.E. arête, by which they reached the summit in rather over two hours, being delayed somewhat by a heavy snowstorm. The ascent took 6½ hours' actual walking.

The return to La Bérarde was made by the ordinary route to the S.E. and the Chardon glacier.

#### *Graian District.*

**PUNTA NERA** (3,697 mètres=12,130 feet, New Italian Survey).  
*August 8.*—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge and Mr. G. Yeld, with Christian Almer the younger and his brother Rudolf, ascended this peak. They followed the usual Grivola route to the edge of the Trajo † glacier, and thence (in 2 hrs. 20 min.), keeping well to the left, under the Punta Rossa, reached the summit by easy snow-slopes, and the N.E. ridge (6 hrs. 25 min. very moderate walking from Cogne). The view was very good, the Grand Paradis and the Pointe de Gai being perhaps the finest features of it, though the near view of the Trajo glacier and the Grivola was decidedly interesting. The whole of the Graian and Pennine Alps were visible. They found on the summit a

\* *Mittheilungen des D. und Ö. A.-V.*, 1888, p. 237, and entry in the Travellers' Book of the Chalet Hôtel at La Bérarde.

† The new edition of the Italian map restores the name Traso (Trajo) instead of Grivola to this glacier.

diminutive cairn without any names, probably built by some hunter. The descent was made direct to the King's encampment on the Col de Lauzon route. A good deal of snow lay about, and much facilitated progress. The King's encampment was reached at 3.25, the summit having been left at 1.55 (15 min. halt), and Cogne regained without any hurry at 5.25.

GRAND PARADIS FROM THE EAST (4,061 mètres=13,324 feet). CRESTA GASTALDI (circa 3,850 mètres=12,632 feet). COL DE L'ABEILLE (circa 3,800 mètres=12,468 feet). August 12.—The same party ascended the Grand Paradis in 3 hrs. 17 min. actual walking by the usual route from the Rifugio Vittorio Emanuele. They then turned S.E. from the summit with the cairn, and gained (13 min.) the top of a great couloir which is a very conspicuous feature in views of the Grand Paradis from the E. It is just N. of the rocky aiguille at the angle where the Grand Paradis ridge and the Pointe de Ceresole—Becca di Moncorvé ridge join each other, and its head is the next gap but one S.E. of the peak with the cairn. By this couloir, of which the upper part required care, they descended (keeping slightly to the right) to the broad snow col between the Grand Paradis and the Cresta Gastaldi, which was reached in 1 hr. 20 min. from the top of the couloir, the snow being in excellent condition. They propose to call this pass 'Col de l'Abeille,' after a bee which was found alive on the col and carried down to the Rifugio on the hat of one of the party. Thence, in 10 min., they made the first ascent of the Cresta Gastaldi, the peak which lies between the Grand Paradis and the Pic de la Lune or Pointe de Ceresole. They then regained the Col de l'Abeille in 5 min., and in 56 min. more reached the Noaschetta glacier. They first crossed the hanging glacier (which they propose to name 'Glacier de l'Abeille'; it is marked No. 4, and called by the inappropriate name of Ghiacciaio del Gran Paradiso on Tavola XV. in Signor Baretto's 'Per Rupi e Ghiacci' (p. 48), so conspicuous in the view of the Grand Paradis from the Tresenta, diagonally from N.E. to S.W., then passing close by and to the right of its ice-fall, kept across rocks to the right till they reached a large snow couloir, down which they scampered merrily to the Noaschetta glacier. In 23 min. they reached the Col du Grand Paradis, and the Rifugio Vittorio Emanuele in 45 min. more.

This is an extremely interesting expedition, apparently only possible in exceptional seasons. This year the snow was everywhere excellent; probably in most years the great couloir is a sheet of ice. The Grand Paradis was ascended from the Col du Grand Paradis on August 21, 1875, by Signori Vaccarone and Gramaglia.\* Their line of ascent lay far to the W. of, and did not in any point touch the route of the Col de l'Abeille. The name Cresta Gastaldi was given to the point 3,850 by Signor Baretto in 1874; † it does not appear on

\* *Bollettino del C. A. I.*, 1876, pp. 175-6.

† See Professor Baretto's *Per Rupi e Ghiacci*, pp. 67-8. He named the Cresta Gastaldi in honour of the famous Italian geologist, and estimates its height at 3,850 mètres. On page 62 he discusses the question of crossing the pass, which he considers possible, though very difficult, because of a wall of

the Italian map, but will be found on Mr. Yeld's map in *Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. p. 509.

BECCA DI NOASCHETTA (3,447 mètres = 11,310 feet, New Italian Survey). COL DE VALNONTÉY (circa 3,535 mètres = 11,596 feet, New Italian Survey). TÊTE DE VALNONTÉY (3,543 mètres = 11,625 feet, New Italian Survey). COL DE LA LUNE (circa 3,400 mètres = 11,155 feet). August 13.—The same party, starting from the Rifugio, crossed the Col du Grand Paradis, and having traversed the Noaschetta glacier in an easterly direction, made, by the easy rocky south-west ridge, the first ascent of the point marked 3,447 mètres on the New Italian Map, for which the name Becca di Noaschetta seems fitting, in three hours' walking from the Rifugio (45 minutes from the glacier). The Becca lies between the Tête de la Tribulation and the Lago di Goj at the eastern end of the Noaschetta glacier, and is seen from Cogne over the main ridge. It commands perhaps the finest view of the Grand Paradis that can be obtained.

Thence, in 30 minutes, by a traverse above the Ghiacciaio di Gay (G. Grandcrou S. of Mr. Yeld's map) and a snow couloir, they reached the col (leading over to the Plan de la Tribulation) between the Tête de la Tribulation and the point marked 3,543 mètres on the New Italian Map. In five minutes more they reached the point itself. This point, of which this was the first ascent, stands right at the end of the Valnontey, so that 'Tête de Valnontey' would appear to be a suitable name for it, while the col may be called 'Col de Valnontey.' The view from the Tête was satisfactory, Cogne being seen to great advantage.

They then, crossing the col and a bergschrund, descended towards the Plan de la Tribulation, rounded the Tête de la Tribulation (3,642 mètres), and reached the opening between the last-named peak and the Pic de la Lune, or Pointe de Ceresole (30 minutes from the Tête de Valnontey). Probably in most years the slope under the Col de Valnontey on the north side is ice; this year it was good snow. From the col, which they named Col de la Lune, Mr. Coolidge and the Almers made the ascent of the Pic de la Lune by the east ridge and north face (45 min. up, 25 min. down). The whole party then descended the steep rock-wall (which had been studied on the way up the Becca di Noaschetta) to the Noaschetta glacier in 35 minutes; the last bit by a snow couloir to the right. Thence, in 1 hr. 55 mins., they regained the Rifugio by way of the Col du Grand Paradis.

This and the previous day's work complete the exploration of the range on the south side of the Plan de la Tribulation, as the Tête de la

---

rocks, for which reason it is a 'colle rompocollo.' In the *Bollettino* (numbers 10-11, pages 328-9) he discusses the Col de l'Abeille, and the ascent of the Paradis from it, deciding that both are possible if the lower rocks can be forced. It was precisely through those rocks that the 1888 party was led by the snow couloir. It is possible, however, that *both* these passages refer mainly to the Colle Chamonin (crossed by Signor Baretta himself on August 31, 1874), his map in the *Bollettino* (Nos. 10-11) not marking the Cresta Gastaldi, and indicating only one col (a possible one) between the Grand Paradis and the Punta di Ceresole.

Tribulation was ascended by Messrs. Coolidge and Yeld, August 11, 1885 \*; the Pic de la Lune by Signor Martelli, from the Noaschetta side, July 1, 1874, by Signor Baretto from the south-east, July 5, 1874, † and from near the Cogne side of the Col Chamonin by Mr. Yeld on August 5, 1879 ‡ (Mr. Coolidge's ascent was made by a variation of this last route); while the Col Chamonin (3,720 mètres in height, and lying between the Pic de la Lune and the Cresta Gastaldi) was crossed by Signor Baretto August 31, 1874. § Excellent views of both sides of this range are given in Signor Baretto's book (Tavole XIV. and XV.), taken in each case from drawings by Signor G. B. Rimini.

BECCA DI MONCIAIR (3,544 mètres = 11,628 feet, New Italian Survey). August 15.—The same party, with the addition of Joseph Jantet, of Epinel, reached the Col de Monciair in 1 hr. 52 mins. walking from the Rifugio. Thence, in 35 minutes, they climbed the Becca di Monciair by its north-east ridge, returning to the col in 18 minutes. In 38 minutes they reached the Broglio glacier, which was quitted on the left bank in 15 minutes, and in 2 hrs. 40 mins. more gained the Albergo della Levanna (Stabilimento) at Ceresole Reale.

The first ascent of the Becca di Monciair would appear to have been made by Signor G. Frasca in 1881. || His card, with a portion of the 'Gazetta Piemontese' of July 12, 1881, was found on the top, as also the card of another party, Signori L. Nicolone and C. Poccardi, August 3, 1885. The pass was first crossed by Signor Frasca on August 8, 1880, ¶ and by Messrs. G. P. Baker and Yeld on August 18, 1881, \*\* when the name Col de Charforon was suggested, but as the pass appears to be known as Col de Monciair it seems better to retain that name.

MONT HERBETET (3,778 mètres = 12,396 feet, New Italian Survey). August 10.—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with Christian and Rudolf Almer, made the third ascent of this fine peak. Starting from the more southerly of the two Cols de l'Herbetet, they climbed up along the N. arête in 1½ hr. to the peak, being considerably delayed by the great quantity of fresh snow on the upper rocks. The return to the col took 1 hr. 10 mins.

The first ascent was made by Signor L. Barale on August 22, 1873, †† in 4¾ hrs. from the col (2½ down), by the route just described; the second by Messrs. G. P. Baker and G. Yeld on August 3, 1881, by way of the E. arête. ††

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. pp. 416, 514.

† *Per Rupi e Ghiacci*, pp. 49-55.

‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 362; vol. xi. p. 15.

§ *Per Rupi e Ghiacci*, pp. 69-70. Signor Baretto, on p. 67, speaks of the descent from the Col de la Lune as consisting of 300 mètres of sheer rock precipices, and probably impossible.

|| Signor Baretto expressly states that in 1867 he did not reach the summit of the Monciair. (*Bollettino del C. A. I.*, Nos. 10-11, p. 321.)

¶ *Bollettino del C. A. I.*, 1880, p. 666.

\*\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 356; vol. xi. p. 26.

†† *Bollettino del C. A. I.*, 1874, pp. 284-6.

‡‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 354; vol. xi. p. 20.

CHARFORON FROM THE NORTH (3,640 mètres=11,943 feet, New Italian Survey). *August 14.*—The last-named party, having started from the Rifugio Vittorio Emanuele at the foot of the Grand Paradis, crossed the Tressenta (3,609 mètres) from the Col du Grand Paradis to the Col de Mont Corvé (in 1 hr. 20 mins. from col to col), and thence made a new route up the Charforon by the N. arête. At first they kept along the W. side of the ridge, climbing steep but broken rocks to the summit of a great pinnacle (35 mins.), and then along the rocky E. edge, overhanging the Ceresole side, to the summit (33 mins.), no real difficulty being encountered. The descent was made in 53 mins. to the Col de Monciair or de Charforon, whence the Rifugio was regained in 53 mins. more. This seems to be the fifth ascent of the peak, and the fourth route up it.

#### Mont Blanc District.

AIGUILLE DE BIONNASSAY BY THE EASTERN ARÊTE (4,061 mètres = 13,324 feet). *August 13.*—Miss Katharine Richardson, with Emile Rey and Jean Baptiste Bich, left the Cantine de la Visaille (at the foot of the southern Glacier de Miage) at 12.15 A.M., and followed the route of the Col de Miage to the junction of the two branches of the southern Miage glacier. Then, turning to the right, they passed the icefall and gained the southern arête of the Aiguille de Bionnassay (20 minutes above the Col de Miage) by a short snow-slope and easy rocks. They followed this ridge to the summit of the Aiguille, which was reached at 10 A.M., much step-cutting being required. Starting again at 10.15 A.M. the party traversed the eastern arête of the Aiguille in its entire length to the Dôme du Gôûter, which was attained at 1.20 P.M., a halt of forty-five minutes having been made on the final slope. This arête, though with little exception a mere knife-edge, was in excellent condition, about 300 feet only—soon after leaving the summit of the Aiguille—being of ice. Chamonix was reached by the usual route at 6.40 P.M., the actual time walking from the Cantine having been 16 hrs. 10 mins.\*

---

\* [This seems to be the fourth recorded ascent of the Aiguille de Bionnassay, the eastern arête of which had hitherto defied all attempts. The first ascent of the Aiguille was made on July 28, 1865, by Messrs. E. N. Buxton, F. C. Grove, and R. J. S. Macdonald (*Alpine Journal*, vol. ii. 132, 321-332), by way of the Glacier de Bionnassay and the western arête, the descent being effected by the S.W. face to the northern Miage glacier. The second was made on July 31, 1885, by M. Paul Vignon, from the southern Miage glacier, by way of a great ice-fall and the S.E. flank of the peak. (*Annuaire du Club Alpin Français*, vol. xii. [1885], pp. 80-83.) The third was made on July 13 or 14, 1888, by Signor G. Gruber (the Austrian Consul at Genoa), with Kaspar Maurer and Andreas Jaun, the route taken being by the southern Miage glacier, the S. arête (that leading up from the Col de Miage), and the S.E. face of the peak. It is well known that from 1856 onwards several early explorers desired to reach the summit of Mont Blanc direct from the Col de Miage. (See specially *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers*, First Series, pp. 64-7, 74, and M. Durier's book on *Mont Blanc*, second edition, pp. 310-12.) As yet no one party has achieved this feat in a single day. Messrs. Reilly and Birkbeck, on August 6, 1864 (*Alpine Journal*, vol. i. p. 375; vol. ii. pp. 110-113), succeeded in passing from the Col to the Dôme in five

**MONT BLANC DIRECT FROM THE COL DU GÉANT.** *August 29.*—Messrs. F. A. Bowlby and J. Stafford Anderson, with Abraham Imseng and Hans Almer, started from the hut on the Col du Géant at 4.50 A.M., but instead of making the long round by the Mont Blanc du Tacul, struck due W., and at 6.30 reached the S.W. corner of the Glacier du Géant to the S.W. of the Capucin (3,831 mètres). They then worked up a couloir, partly snow, partly rock, to the crest of the N.E. spur of the Mont Maudit, which was gained at 10.30, and where the usual route was rejoined. After cutting across the N.W. face of the peak they gained the foot of the Mur de la Côte at 5.10, and Mont Blanc at 7 P.M., reaching the Grands Mulets at 9.50 P.M. The route was unusually long and trying, but the only serious difficulty was found in getting up to the ridge of the Mont Maudit. The party took 4 hrs. (including a halt for breakfast) from the foot of the couloir to the ridge. One bit of rock-work about the length of the rope delayed them nearly an hour.

This new route saves the very long round which is usually made when ascending Mont Blanc from the Col du Géant.

**AIGUILLE DE LANEUVAZ** (3,730 mètres = 12,238 feet). *August 11.*  
**AIGUILLES ROUGES** (3,665 mètres = 12,025 feet). *August 12.*  
**COL DE LA GRANDE LUIS** (3,440 mètres = 11,287 feet).—MM. A. Barbey and L. Kurz (both members of the Swiss Alpine Club), with the guides J. Pessart, of Bagne, and J. Simond, of Chamonix, accomplished the first ascent of these peaks, starting in each case from a bivouac (2,648 mètres) on the Glacier d'Argentière. The former peak rises between the Tour Noir (3,843 mètres) and the Col du Tour Noir. The ascent of the latter point, lying between the Tour

---

hours, skirting round the eastern flank of the Aiguille de Bionnassay and striking the great ridge between the Aiguille and the Dôme at about its central point. M. Vignon, on July 31, 1885 (*loc. cit.* p. 85), descended from the Aiguille to the glacier to the E., and thence in 2½ hours gained the Dôme by Mr. Reilly's route. The direct route *over* the Aiguille, down the east arête, and along the *entire* ridge between the Aiguille and the Dôme had not been taken until Miss Richardson's remarkable expedition last summer. Mr. Grove and party considered the E. arête of the Aiguille to be impossible. (*Alpine Journal*, vol. ii. p. 329.) M. Vignon (*loc. cit.* p. 73) states that a hunter, Edward Rosset (in 1874?), starting from the Dôme, traversed the ridge, but was stopped high up on the E. ridge by impracticable rocks. M. Vignon himself attempted to descend by it, but encountered such serious difficulties that he was forced to retreat after having accomplished 200 (656 feet) out of the 600 mètres (1,949 feet) which separate the summit of the Aiguille from the lowest point of the ridge between the Aiguille and the Dôme. M. Vignon calculates that his furthest point was about halfway between the summit and the rocks which stopped Rosset (*loc. cit.* pp. 84-5).

It has been reserved for a lady to accomplish the traverse of an arête which had hitherto been found impracticable, and to prove that it is possible to pass from a point on the S. ridge of the Aiguille de Bionnassay (only 20 mins. above the Col de Miage) over the summit of the peak straight along to the Dôme. Thus a splendid high-level (or, rather, mid-aërial) route, practically from the Col to the Dôme, has been opened up, which has long been aimed at, though it is improbable that (as the early explorers hoped) this will be generally adopted as a short and easy route up Mont Blanc from the western or S. Gervais side.

EDITOR.]

Noir and the Mont Dolent (3,830 mètres), was extremely difficult. The party left their tent at 5 A.M., but did not gain the summit till 2.30 P.M., returning to their tent by moonlight at 11 P.M.\* The same party also made the first passage of the lofty Col de la Grande Luis, between the peak of the same name and the Darrei, reported to be the shortest way from Argentière to La Folly. †

*Monte Rosa District.*

GRABENHORN (3,375 mètres = 11,073 feet). *July 7.*—Mr. H. Heldmann, with Augustin Gentinetta and Cæsar Knubel, starting from Randa at 3 A.M., passed by the upper Festi sleeping-place at 6, and followed the Festi glacier to the N. foot of the peak, the summit of which was gained at 10 A.M. by means of the rotten rocky ridge which comes down furthest to the glacier. No trace of a previous ascent was found, but it is believed that the peak has been reached before, though this is the first recorded ascent. The party descended by the S. face (many loose rocks) to the Kien glacier, where the Täschhorn route was joined and followed to Randa, reached at 1.30 P.M.

LEITERSPITZ (3,218 mètres = 10,558 feet). *July 9.*—The same party made the first ascent of this peak, which forms the western extremity of the great western arête of the Täschhorn. The route taken was by the Täsch Alp, and then straight to the top by a gully filled with loose stones and by some smooth slabs of rock. Zermatt was left at 2.30 A.M., and the summit reached at 8 A.M.

OBER GABELJOCH. *July 14.*—The same party made the first passage of this col, which lies between the highest and central peaks of the Gabelhorn. Starting from Zermatt at 2.30 A.M. they gained the Arben glacier at 5, and in two hours more the foot of the rocks, which proved to be loose and rotten. Climbing over them and (for half an hour) up a snow couloir to the right, the party cut through a corniche and gained the col at 9 A.M. The return to Zermatt was made *viâ* the Trift glacier, the village being reached at noon.

BREITHORN BY THE N.W. ARÊTE (4,171 mètres = 13,685 feet). *July 27.*—Mr. G. W. Prothero and Gabriel Taugwalder, of Zermatt, left the Riffelalp Hôtel, at 5.10 A.M., to ascend the Breithorn by the N.W. arête. Crossing the Gorner glacier and keeping to the right (N.W.) of the Triftje, they ascended by a snow ridge to the left (S.E.) of the ice-fall of the Klein Matterhorn glacier, towards a V-shaped patch of rocks, easily visible from below, the apex of the V being uppermost. They halted on the lower rocks for half an hour, and keeping always to the arête, reached, at 12.30, the shoulder marked 3,688 on the Federal map. The rocks are quite easy, but the ridge is very steep, and in one part required a good deal of step-cutting. They halted for half an hour on the shoulder; then crossing the hollow snow-field beyond the shoulder in a southerly direction, they reached the col between the Breithorn and the Klein Matterhorn at 1 P.M., and keeping thence to the left along the ridge, they joined the ordinary route from

\* *Schweizer Alpen-Zeitung*, 1888, pp. 199–200.

† *Echo des Alpes*, 1888, No. 3, p. 210.

the Théodule about ten minutes below the summit, which they reached at 1.55. The route is a pretty direct one, and quite safe. It might be possible to ascend straight to the top from the shoulder, but here there would probably be danger from falling stones or glacier. The time taken was longer than it ought to be, partly owing to the quantity of step-cutting necessary on this occasion, partly owing to the fact that one of the party was out of condition. It is a more interesting route than the ordinary one, and safer than that by the N. arête. It lies to the S.E. of the way up to the Klein Matterhorn Pass, described on p. 65 of Mr. Conway's 'Zermatt Pocket-Book.'

SÜD LENZSPITZE FROM SÜD LENZJOCH (4,300 mètres=14,108 feet). July 28.—Mr. R. F. Ball, with Ambrose Supersax and Louis Zurbrucken, left the Festi hut at 1.30 A.M., and, after sheltering from a snowstorm on the rock-ridge between the Festi and Hohberg glaciers for 2 hrs. 20 mins., reached the ridge connecting the Süd Lenzspitze and the Dom at a point a short distance to the N. of the Süd Lenzjoch (the so-called 'Nadeljoch') at 8.20 A.M. From this point the summit of the Süd Lenzspitze was reached in 1 hr. 25 mins., the route being at first along a sharp arête of rotten rocks, and afterwards up a couloir on the W. side of the ridge. The summit was left at 11 A.M., and, after a short advance along the arête leading to the Nadelhorn, a couloir was descended on to steep snow-slopes, by which the Hohberg glacier was regained in 1 hr. from the summit. The party then returned to the hut, and reached Randa at 3.50 P.M.

#### *Lepontine Alps.*

OFENHORN, OR PUNTA D'ARBOLA, BY THE S.W. ARÊTE (3,242 mètres = 10,637 feet, Siegfried map; 3,237 mètres = 10,621 feet, New Italian survey). July 6.—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with young Christian Almer, having started from the comfortable little inn at Binn, followed the usual route up the Ofenhorn, by way of the Albrun Pass path and the hollow called Eggerofen, as far as the notch in the S.W. arête of the peak, which overlooks a nameless glacier. This notch, which was first crossed by Herr Gottlieb Studer, on August 8, 1864,\* may be called Passo del Ghiacciaio d'Arbola. The usual route descends to the glacier due S. of the peak (which might well be named Ghiacciaio d'Arbola), and mounts by the snow slopes on the S. direct to the highest peak. The above party, however, having no local knowledge and finding the Arbola glacier enveloped in mist, preferred to attempt the ascent by the S.W. arête of the peak, which Herr Studer looked at but passed by. The climb along this ridge, composed of rotten rocks, was not difficult, save through the great amount of snow which lay on them. In 1 hr. 10 min. (slow going) they reached the S.W. end of the summit ridge, just where the two ridges enclosing the Eggerofen come together. A rather long and sharp snow-ridge, with rocky pinnacles here and there, led, in twenty-five minutes more (1 hr. 35 min. from the Passo del Ghiacciaio d'Arbola), to the more westerly of the two points which

\* *Jahrbuch des S. A. C.*, ii. 217-8.

form the highest peak of the Ofenhorn. Mist greatly exaggerated the distance of the W. from the E. (and slightly higher) peak, and this reason, as well as very stormy weather and apparent want of time, prevented the party from going on to the E. peak. In 15 min. they regained the S.W. end of the summit ridge, and in about 20 min. more they gained a point, rather above the pass, whence a gliessade down snow took them down to the little glacier which fills the upper end of the Eggerofen.

On July 12 the same party made, in clear weather, the ascent of the E. peak, from the inn at Tosa Falls, by the usual route over the Neufelgiu Pass, the Hohsaud glacier, the E. face, and the N.E. ridge. In 5 min. they descended to the snowy depression between the E. and W. peaks, and remounted to the W. peak, on which they found their old tracks of July 6. The return to the E. peak was made in 3 min., Tosa Falls being regained by the Bocchetta del Gallo. The S.W. end of the summit ridge is a good bit lower than the two points at its N.E. end, of which the E. point is distinctly, though not by much, the loftier.

It is believed that the peak has not been previously ascended by the S.W. arête. At any rate there seems no record of any such ascent in Alpine literature, and the route was unknown to the local guide at Binn.

As some confusion has arisen respecting the passes on the south side of the Ofenhorn, the following particulars may be acceptable. There are three such passes.

(1) *Gap leading over the S.W. arête of the peak from the Eggerofen (W. of the Albrun path) to the nameless glacier (now called Arbola glacier) S. of the peak.* It was crossed from W. to E. by Herr Studer in 1864, and from E. to W. by Mr. Cust on September 7, 1880,\* while it was reached from the W. by Mr. Coolidge on July 6, 1888. It might be called *Passo del Ghiacciaio d'Arbola*.

(2) *Gap leading from the Arbola glacier to the Forno glacier.* This was reached from the W. by Herr Studer in 1864, and crossed from E. to W. on September 7, 1880, by Mr. Cust, who gave it the name of *Ofenjoch*.\*

(3) *Gap leading from the Forno glacier to the head of the Val Devero.* This was reached from the N., in 1879, by Mr. Cust, who has christened it *Passo del Forno*,\* and who in 1881 reached it from the S. side, thus completing the passage.

SIEDEL ROTHORN (3,296 mètres = 10,814 feet, Siegfried map; 3,284 mètres = 10,775 feet, New Italian Survey). July 14.—The same party, starting from the inn at Tosa Falls, climbed the Blindenhorn (3,382 mètres) by way of the Gemsland hut and the Siedel Rothorn glacier, and on the way back ascended the Siedel Rothorn from the broad snow col between the Gries and Hohsaud glaciers, first traversed by Mr. A. Cust on October 7, 1879.† The ascent up the easy S.W. arête took 20 mins., while the descent by the equally easy eastern arête

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 98.

† *Ibid.*, vol. ix. p. 369.

to the Gries glacier, and thence to the Gries Pass took 50 mins. from the summit of the peak.

'No cairn of any sort was found on the peak, nor does any previous ascent seem to be recorded in Alpine literature. Mr. A. Cust, however, informs me that he made the ascent in 1881 by way of the Siedel Rothorn glacier and the S.W. arête, this no doubt being the first time the peak was climbed. Save the Blindenhorn, it is the loftiest peak to the south of the Rhone and Rhine valleys, between the Monte Leone, 3,565 mètres, and the Piz Valrhein, 3,398 mètres. W. A. B. C.'

PIZZO ROTONDO (3,197 mètres = 10,489 feet). MUTTEN PASS (c. 2,920 mètres = 9,581 feet). July 17.—The same party, starting from the All' Acqua Hospice in the Val Bedretto, reached in 3 hrs., by forest, pasture, rocks, and snow, the broad snowy gap between the Kühbodenhorn (3,073 mètres) and the Pizzo Rotondo, marked Passo Rotondo on the Siegfried map.

A sudden break in the clouds enabled them to study the Pizzo Rotondo, and they left the knapsacks on a moraine at the W. foot about 20 mins. from the pass. From this point the S. and highest peak of the Rotondo was ascended in 1 hr. by way of its S. arête (gained by a snow couloir), and descended in 23 mins. by one of the great snow couloirs which seam its W. face; the ascent and descent of the last bit were made by the N. slope. No difficulties were encountered, despite the terrible reputation enjoyed by the peak, which is the culminating point of the S. Gothard district. A cairn was found, but no names or cards. From the Passo Rotondo, the party circled round the head of the Geren glacier, and remounted (in  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hr. from the moraine near the Passo Rotondo) to the south-westernmost of the two snowy gaps in the ridge S.W. of the Leckihorn (3,069 mètres), the way being perfectly easy, despite bad weather and very soft snow. From this second pass (which it is proposed to name Mutton Pass) the party descended by gentle snow slopes down the Mutton Glacier, soon joining the route of the Lecki Pass, which was followed over the point 2,807 to the Furca inn (2 hrs. 50 mins. from second pass). The Pizzo Rotondo was first ascended on August 5, 1869, by Herr Victor Haller, from the E. side, by way of the Pesciora Glacier.\* The N. peak was ascended from the W. by Herr Schläpfer, four days later, his guides only going on to the S. peak.† In 1871 the Pizzo was gained by Herr Coaz,‡ but the only other mentions of it in Alpine literature seem to be the references in the 'Cronaca del Club Alpino Italiano dal 1863 al 1888' (1888), page 92,§ to a successful ascent made by Signor Agostino Carones on July 29, 1885, and in 'S. A. C. Jahrbuch,' xxi. p. 582, to an unsuccessful attempt on August 15-16, 1885. The Mutton Pass seems to be new, and is a useful link in the direct route from Val Bedretto to the Furca.

\* *Jahrbuch des S. A. C.*, vol. vii. p. 531; *Itinerarium* for 1871, pp. 50-51.

† *Ibid.*, vol. vii. p. 166 *sqq.*

‡ Studer's *Ueber Eis und Schnee*, vol. iv. p. 363.

§ See, too, *Rivista Mensile del C. A. I.*, 1885, p. 347, from which it appears that Signor Carones went up by way of All' Acqua and the Passo Rotondo, and that he thought that the peak had never been climbed before.

*Bernese Oberland.*

GROSS VIESCHERHORN BY THE N.W. ARÊTE (4,049 mètres = 13,285 feet); OCHSENHORN BY THE W. ARÊTE (3,905 mètres = 12,812 feet). July 22.—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with Christian Almer, jun., and his brother Rudolf, starting from the Concordia hut, followed the ordinary Mönchjoch route to the middle of the Ewigschneefeld, and then striking up the snow slopes to the N.E. (north of the great rocky spur of the Gross Viescherhorn), gained the main N.W. arête of the Gross Viescherhorn, slightly to the S.E. of the point marked 3,642 mètres on the Siegfried map (3 hrs. 10 mins. from the Concordia hut). They then followed the N.W. arête to the summit, keeping along the snowy edge so conspicuous from Grindelwald, a short steep ice-slope requiring steps to be cut up it, and taking to the rocks at the very end of the climb only. The cairn was gained in 2 hrs. 20 mins. from the point near 3,642. Descending for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. along the S.E. arête nearly as far as the Viescher Sattel (or gap between the Gross and Hinter Viescherhorn), the party went down easy rocks and snow to the great snowy basin to the N. lying between the Gross Viescherhorn and the Ochsenhorn, and forming the extreme head of the Viescher glacier. This basin was traversed to the W. foot of the Ochsenhorn ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.), the party keeping a little way from the great cornice between the two peaks which forms such a feature in the view from Grindelwald. The Ochsenhorn was then ascended by its sharp snowy W. arête in 40 mins., the return taking 15 mins. The party then bearing to the left soon joined the Ochsenjoch route, descended to the main stream of the Viescher glacier, and returned to the hut over the Grünhornlücke. The whole round from the hut and back took 13 hrs. 5 mins., from which 2 hrs. must be deducted for halts, the actual walking being thus 11 hrs. 5 mins. On the whole the snow was in good condition, save in the afternoon.

The Gross Viescherhorn does not seem to have been previously climbed by the N.W. arête,\* while it is believed that the W. ridge of the Ochsenhorn has been hitherto untouched, and the basin between the peaks unvisited. It would be a fine and not difficult or too long an expedition to go from the Bergli hut to the Concordia hut, viâ the

---

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 380. I learn, just as this number is going to press, that on July 31, 1887, Mr. Hermann Woolley anticipated me in making the ascent by the N.W. arête. Mr. Woolley (whose guides were Christian Jössi and Johann Kaufmann, both of Grindelwald) informs me that his party left the Bergli hut at 4.35 A.M., crossed the Unter Mönchjoch, and reached the N.W. arête of the peak at the last depression before the N.W. arête rises abruptly. Thence, after a halt for breakfast, they struck up the arête, cutting steps up the ridge as far as the rocks, and gained the summit at 10.25 A.M., descending to the Eggischhorn by the usual route. I am of opinion that Mr. Woolley and myself reached the N.W. arête at precisely the same point, and of course the rest of the climb was the same in each case. I am much indebted to Mr. Woolley for supplying me with the above particulars. Mr. Woolley further informs me that with the same guides he succeeded, on July 28, 1887, in making the second ascent of the Schreckhorn from the Lauteraar Sattel. The party started from the Glecksteinhütte at 4.40 A.M., and gained the summit at 4 P.M. only, owing to the unfavourable state of the snow. They descended to the Schwarzegg hut by the usual route.—W. A. B. C.

Gross Viescherhorn, traversing the entire N.W. or Mönchjoch arête, and descending either to the Ewigschneefeld or to the Viescher glacier. The Hinter Viescherhorn (4,020 mètres=13,190 feet),\* too, might be easily taken on the way, thus combining the three peaks of the Grindelwald Viescherhörner in a single day.

Mr. Lorria's observations as to the actual summit of the Gross Viescherhorn being entirely in the Valais,† were found to be quite accurate, but the distance of the peak from the Bernese frontier is so short (far less than that between the Grenzgipfel and the Höchste Spitze of Monte Rosa) that the view from the cairn down on to the Eismeer is interfered with to the very slightest extent.

STRAHLEGGHORN (3,462 mètres=11,359 feet). *August 14.*—Mr. Felix O. Schuster, with Peter Baumann and Christian Bernet, and Major-General Blanckley, with two other guides, ascended this peak in about three-quarters of an hour from the Strahlegg Pass by way of the rocky arête leading up from the pass. It would probably have been easier to reach the summit by the north face, but the arête was chosen as affording a better climb. There was a good deal of snow on the mountain, and the ascent was not altogether easy, the arête being in some places very narrow and steep, while the rocks were by no means firm.

No account of any previous ascent seems to have been published, but on the summit a bottle was found containing the card of a Swiss climber who had effected the ascent in September 1887—it did not appear by what route. Unfortunately, the bottle containing the card was accidentally knocked down and lost. The view from the peak is magnificent, combining the special features of the panoramas from the Strahlegg Pass and the Finsteraarjoch.

The descent was effected on the S. side. The arête was followed for a short distance to about the point marked 3,382 on the Siegfried map. Then the party turned down the glacier in a S.W. direction till they reached the upper Eismeer, just below the ice-fall of the Finsteraarjoch.

‘This expedition is a most enjoyable one, and I can strongly recommend it, especially as there is rather a scarcity of expeditions which can, like this, be accomplished up and down from Grindelwald in the day.—F. O. S.’

KLEIN SCHRECKHORN (3,497 mètres=11,474 feet). *July 31, 1885.*—Mr. F. O. Schuster, with Peter Baumann and Christian Bernet, ascended this peak by what is believed to be a new route, and one which is somewhat shorter than the ordinary one. Starting from the Schwarzegg hut, and having mounted the Nässifirn (very difficult in 1885 owing to scarcity of snow) for some distance, the party, instead of making for the main ridge and ascending by the S.E. arête, climbed pretty straight up the S. face of the mountain, striking the S. arête a short distance from the summit. The descent was effected entirely by the S. arête without touching the Nüssi glacier.

METTENBERGJOCH (3,054 mètres = 10,020 feet). *August 1880.*—

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. pp. 379–380.

† *Ibid.* vol. xiii. pp. 381, 555.

Mr. Felix O. Schuster crossed this pass with Peter Baumann. Having ascended the Gwächten (3,169 mètres=10,265 feet) from the Bäregg inn, they went down to the col between it and the Mettenberg, and effected a descent through the ice-fall of the Wechsel glacier (very steep and difficult) to the Ober Grindelwald glacier. The descent much resembled that of the final slope of the Wetterhorn, and the step-cutting, which was left to Mr. Schuster, as Baumann preferred to be last on the rope, was a by no means easy operation. About halfway down the glacier the party was forced to take to the rocks on the right; then went down the ice again, finally reaching the Ober Grindelwald glacier in 3½ hrs. from the col by means of easy rocks below the upper ice-fall. Crossing the glacier to the Schönbühl, they joined the Wetterhorn route, and returned by it to Grindelwald. Six hours were employed from the summit of the Gwächten to Grindelwald.

It would be better to take the expedition in the reverse direction, as in some years the ice-fall of the Wechsel glacier is probably not practicable. It is, however, one of the most interesting of the shorter glacier expeditions which can be made from Grindelwald.

The name 'Mettenbergjoch' was originally given by Dr. Emil Burckhardt to the pass (height, 3,159 mètres) between the Gwächten and the Klein Schreckhorn (later called Gwächtenjoch), which he effected on September 2, 1872. But, as he himself allows, this name more properly belongs to the pass between the Gwächten and the Mettenberg,\* which is described above, and seems to have been crossed but once.

FLECKISTOCK FROM THE MEIENTHAL (3,418 mètres = 11,214 feet). *September 23.*—Herr E. Huber, with Josef Gamma of Göschenen, having climbed this peak (formerly called Spitzliberg) from the west by the usual route from the Voralpthal in 7¼ hours from Göschenen, succeeded in forcing a way down the north side to the Meienthal, a route which was said to be impossible.† They followed at first the ridge falling north-east towards the point called Flecki, but were driven to the right, and finally, without any very great trouble, reached the Kartigelfirn. Wasen was gained at 4 P.M. by way of the Meienthal, the summit having been left at 10.45 A.M. and a long halt made on the Flecki.

HÜHNERTHALHORN (3,181 mètres = 10,435 feet). *September 24.*—The first ascent of this peak was made by Herren Charles Montandon and H. Kümmerli without guides. The ascent was made from the Handegg side by way of the Aeren Alp and the Gruben glacier, the descent to the Hühnerthäli glacier and the Urbachthal. The climb is described as difficult and the view as very fine.

BACHLISTOCK (3,274 mètres = 10,742 feet). *September 27.*—Monsieur Brémond and Pfarrer Baumgartner with Hans von Bergen and Johann Tännli, made the first ascent of this tower-like peak. The climb was made from the Bächlilimmi, and took 11 hours (?) from the Grimsel, in clouds and snowstorms. The descent was made without difficulty in 2½ hours to the Pavillon Dollfuss.

\* *Jahrbuch des S. A. C.*, vol. xxi. pp. 42-3.

† *Ibid.*, vol. ii. p. 39.

ELWERRÜCK (3,386 mètres = 11,109 feet). *August 9.*—MM. E. Thury, A. Tschumi, S. Miney, and Paul Montandon, without guides, made the first ascent of this peak, without difficulty, from the Balt-schiederjoch.\*

*Bernina District.*

PIZ BERNINA BY THE BERNINA SCHARTE (4,052 mètres = 13,295 feet). *July 22.*—Mr. Howard Knox, with Martin Schocher and Schnitzler, of Pontresina, left the Boval hut at 3 A.M., and at 7 reached the Fuorcla Prielvusa, or lowest point (3,452 mètres = 11,326 feet) of the ridge between the Piz Bernina and Piz Morteratsch. They then climbed along the narrow ridge to the south, finding the snow in bad condition and a huge cornice. At 11.30 they gained the summit of the Pizzo Bianco (3,998 mètres = 13,117 feet). They then continued to climb up and along the ridge between the P. Bianco and the Piz Bernina—this is the Bernina Scharte—finding considerable difficulties (especially one drop of 60 feet), and not gaining the summit of the Piz Bernina till 2.30.† The Bernina Scharte was forced for the first time by Dr. Güssfeldt on August 12, 1878; again by Dr. Schulz on August 6, 1883; and once more (this time down) by Dr. Güssfeldt on September 18, 1884.‡ In each case the Fuorcla Prielvusa was reached from the W. or Rosegthal side. Mr. Howard Knox reached it from the east, and his ascent by the Pizzo Bianco and Bernina Scharte is the first made by an Englishman.

MONTE ROSSO DI SCERSCEN (3,877 mètres = 11,720 feet). *July 24.*—Mr. Howard Knox and Herr Seebold, with Martin Schocher and Dangel, having ascended this peak from the Italian side, and being prevented from descending on the Roseg side by the bad state of the snow, forced their way along the E. ridge to very near the lowest point between the peak and the lower point of the Piz Bernina. Here they were compelled to spend the night, and next morning descended on the Italian side down the snow couloir between the Scerscen and the Bernina, a route not hitherto taken.§

PIZ MORTERATSCH BY THE SOUTHERN RIDGE (3,754 mètres = 12,317 feet). *August 27.*—Mr. C. C. Branch, with Martin Schocher, started from the Boval hut at 4.7 A.M., and skirted round the great E. buttress of the peak up a terrace, by which they gained in 1½ hr. the edge of the glacier in the gorge below Piz Prielvusa, parallel to the one leading up to the Fuorcla Prielvusa. A difficult descent of 40 feet down a bit of overhanging rock led them down on to the glacier, which they mounted to a band of black rock separating the glacier from the upper snow-field, which was gained by means of a dangerous gully between the ice and the rocks. After a long ascent up snow and

\* The accounts of the four last expeditions are taken from the *Schweizer Alpenzeitung* of October 15, 1888, p. 211.

† *The St. Moritz Post and Davos News*, Summer issue, 1888, No. 9, pp. 149-150.

‡ See Dr. Güssfeldt's book, *In den Hochalpen*, pp. 122-140, 283-293; and *Oesterreichische Alpenzeitung*, 1884, pp. 173-7, 187-192.

§ *The St. Moritz Post and Davos News*, Summer issue, 1888, No. 10, p. 175.

rocks the S. arête of the peak was gained, a little to the right of the lowest point, at 9.30 A.M. (This point had already been reached from the Roseg side by Messrs. Legh and Wainwright, on occasion of the first and only ascent of Piz Prievlusa—3,613 mètres—which seems to be accessible thence in about a quarter of an hour.) The party then started up the S. ridge of the peak, but, after a few hundred feet, were driven on to its eastern face, making one traverse after another over steep ice-slopes and smooth rotten slabs of rock, which all tended downwards rather than up, and became more and more difficult. Thunder and snow came on, so they forced a way straight up the rocks of the E. face to the snow on the crest, by which the top was gained at 2.30. The ascent took  $10\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., of which 1 hr. 25 mins. were devoted to halts. The return was made to the Boval hut by the usual route in 1 hr. 10 mins.\*

#### *Oetzthal District.*

KLEINBERG-JÖCHL (3,200 mètres=10,500 feet). QUELLJOCH (*circa* 10,800 feet). August 8.—Mr. A. J. Butler, with Josef Spechtenhauser, starting at 5.15 A.M. from the village of Planail (1 hr. from Mals in the Etsch valley), mounted the valley, but in about 2 hrs., on reaching the foot of a steep 'kar,' which branches off to the east, the weather seemed so bad that they decided to attempt the passage of the ridge stretching south south-west from the Freibrunner Spitze, instead of, as they had originally intended, attempting to reach the Weisskugel along its W. ridge. Mounting the aforesaid 'kar' and the glen above it, they reached the small glacier at its head which is indicated without name on the Generalstabkarte, and is called Kleinberg glacier on the map issued by the German and Austrian Alpine Club. The weather now improving considerably, they crossed the glacier bearing nearly due east, and reached the pass at 9.45 A.M. By comparison with the Toberettajoch (*circa* 10,700 feet) and the Langgrubjoch (*circa* 10,000 feet), the height of the new pass may be estimated at about 10,500 feet, or 3,200 mètres, perhaps rather less. It is proposed to call it Kleinberg-Jöchl.

After descending on the other side for a short distance, the party bore to the N.E., crossing many rock-spurs dividing the gullies which characterise the upper Matscherthal, and enjoying a magnificent view of the Weisskugel and the Matscherferner. The level of the Matscherthal was gained at a point rather N. of W. of the great ice-fall. They then mounted over grass and rocks to the moraine, and crossed the upper part of the Matscherferner to the pass between the Innere and Aussere Quellspitzen, attained at 2.45 P.M. This has probably been crossed several times, but as it stands in want of a name, it is proposed to call it Quelljoch. The descent to the Steinschlagferner was very steep for a short time, perhaps 100 steps having to be cut. Kurzras in the Schnalsertal was reached at 4.45, and Unsere liebe Frau at 7, after a day of about twelve hours' actual walking.

The Planailthal is believed to have never been previously visited by

---

\* *The St. Moritz Post and Davos News*, No. 22, pp. 489-490.

a traveller, at all events since the Ordnance Survey was made. On August 7 Mr. Butler and his guide had made an excursion to the glacier at the head of the valley (4 hrs. from the village), which has a pretty ice-fall on the S. side, the N. being comparatively smooth.

**SIMILAUNJOCH** (*circa* 11,000 feet). *August 9.*—The same party, starting from *Unsere liebe Frau* at 7.30 A.M., went up the *Schnalsertal* to *Ober Vernagt*, then mounting by steep grass, *geröll*, and rocks about N.N.E. gained at 11.30 a point a little below the summit called *Kasererwarterl* (a subordinate peak of the Similaun). After a long and pleasant halt of two hours spent in lunching and enjoying the view from the *Antelao* to the *Bernina*, the party crossed the *névé* of the *Graf-ferner*, on a level, to the pass which lies between the *Similaun* (3,599 mètres) and the western *Marzelspitze* (3,538 mètres). The descent was at first very steep, quite 60°, but the snow was good, and the *bergschlund* well filled up, as also the *crevasses* on the usually formidable *Marzelsferner*. The *Sanmoarhütte* was reached at 4.45. The pass must be, with perhaps the exception of the *Hintereisjoch* (3,458 mètres=11,346 feet), the highest over the watershed between the *Inn* and the *Adige*.

The pass was reached on August 6, 1883, for the first and only previous time by Herr *Reitzenstein*, of the *Breslau* section of the *German and Austrian Alpine Club*, with *Josef Spechtenhauser* as guide. Great trouble was then found in traversing the lower *bergschlund*. The party climbed the *Hintere Schwarze* (3,625 mètres), and returned to the *Schnalsertal* without completing the descent to the *Sanmoarhütte*.\*

#### *Brenta District.*

**CIMA DEL RIFUGIO** (8,700 feet). *September 15.*—**MESSERS.** T. L. and C. H. *Kesteven* and A. H. *Birch-Reynardson*, with *Bonifacio Nicolussi* as guide, made the first ascent of the small peak near the *Rifugio della Tosa*, for which the name *Cima del Rifugio* is proposed. The south-west side of the mountain is traversed by a series of horizontal terraces, and the climb to the lower of the two peaks is made almost entirely by means of steep chimneys and cracks up the rocks between the terraces. Between the two summits there is a descent of about 40 feet. Almost opposite the small ridge between the two summits there is a gully, which appears to afford an easy way to the top; but this is blocked by a large boulder, and the ascent of the rocks at the side for a short way is rather difficult, there being very little hand or foot hold. From the top of the gully it is only a short scramble to the top. An aneroid which was set at the *Rifugio* gave the height as just 8,700 feet, or about 480 feet above the *Rifugio*. A small cairn which can be seen from the *Rifugio* was built on the summit. The time occupied in the ascent was 1½ hr., and in the descent 1 hr. 20 min., in each case without a halt. The peak affords a most interesting short climb, and, on account of its size and its proximity to the *Rifugio*, can be climbed on the same day as any of the peaks near the *Bocca di Brenta*.

---

\* *Mittheilungen des D. u. Ö. A. V.*, 1884, p. 59.

## Norway.

STORE STYGGEDALSTIND (7,580 feet) FROM MARADAL. August 3.—An English lady, with Thorgeir Sulheim and Anders Eide, ascended this peak from Vormelid, by the Maradalsbræ, and Maradalskar, between Gjertvastind (the easternmost peak of the Horungtinder) and Store Styggedalstind. The descent was made to the Gjertvasbræ, and afforded some good ice-work and very fine ice-scenery.

On August 14, the same party, without Anders, ascended the highest peak of the Soleitinder (6,630 feet) from Berdal.

STORE GJEITHORN.—On August 27 Messrs. C. and E. Hopkinson, with Lars Jansen of Olden, made the first ascent of the Store Gjeithorn (Söndmöre). From Skylstad in Norangsdal the first part of the route taken was the same as for the ascent of Slogen, but instead of turning to the left above the slopes, the side valley was followed until the outlying shoulder of the Gjeithorn (Amtekart) was passed. The glacier to the left then gave an easy route to the rocks. The bergschrund presented no difficulty, and 200 feet of sloping rock-slabs led to a col, from which there was 70 feet of difficult rock to the summit (about 5,050 Norsk feet): time 4½ hrs.

On September 28 the same party crossed from Urke to Brunstad (Sökvelven). Instead of following the usual route, going north from Haukaasen sæter, they went east to Lange sæter, then up the left branch of the valley to the foot of the glacier, ascended the rocks immediately to the left of the icefall, thence over easy snow to the skar (3,600 feet), turned sharp to the left, and descended beside a frozen lake and grass slopes to Velle sæter (6 hrs.). The Amtekart is inaccurate for both these excursions.

## ALPINE NOTES.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER.—The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 18, at the Club Rooms.

The Winter Dinner will take place at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday, December 19. The chair will be taken by Mr. C. T. Dent, President.

The usual Picture Exhibition will *not* be held this year.

All communications relating to the Winter Dinner, or to the business of the Club generally, should be addressed to F. O. Schuster, Esq., 50 Belsize Square, South Hampstead, N.W., Acting Hon. Secretary.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE AVALANCHE RELIEF FUND.—The following is the balance-sheet of the contributions sent in for the relief of the Italian highlanders who suffered so severely from avalanches last winter:

	Francs
1. Collected in Turin (including 2,000 francs from the Duke of Aosta, 1,000 from the Central Direction of the Italian A. C., and 400 from the Turin section) . . . . .	12,060-05
2. Collected by sections of the Italian A. C. (save Turin) . . . . .	6,985-95
3. Collected by Foreign Alpine Clubs (including 7,627f. 15c. from the London A. C.) . . . . .	8,069
Making a grand total of 27,115 francs, or 1,084 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i>	